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**A4FBD**

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(56) Documents cited

**GB A 2087716**

**GB 0626404**

**GB 1071271**

**GB 0439086**

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**GB 0756704**

(58) Field of search

**A4F**

**Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class A47L**

(54) **Cleaning device**

(57) A cleaning device (1) for cleaning windscreen wiper blades, squeegee blades, and sealing strips comprises a holder (2) carrying oppositely directed projections (6) engageable with opposite faces of a lip of the blade or strip whereby, when the device (1) is drawn longitudinally along the lip, the projections (6) scrape the lip thereby cleaning it. The projections may be interdigitated or directly opposed. The device may be separate or form part of another device e.g. it may be provided or formed in the handle of a squeegee. The holder may be channel-shaped, or it may take the form of a pair of tongs. The edge (9) of each projection may be slanted or vertical.

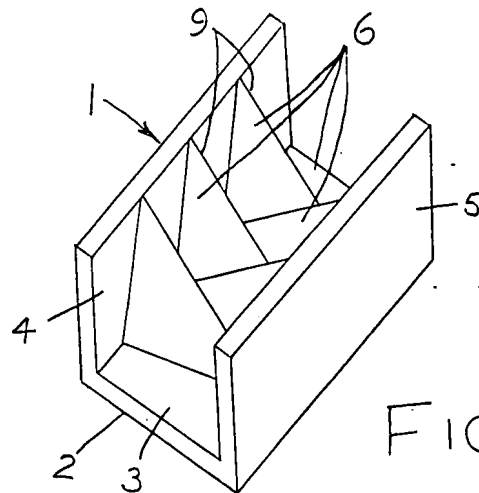
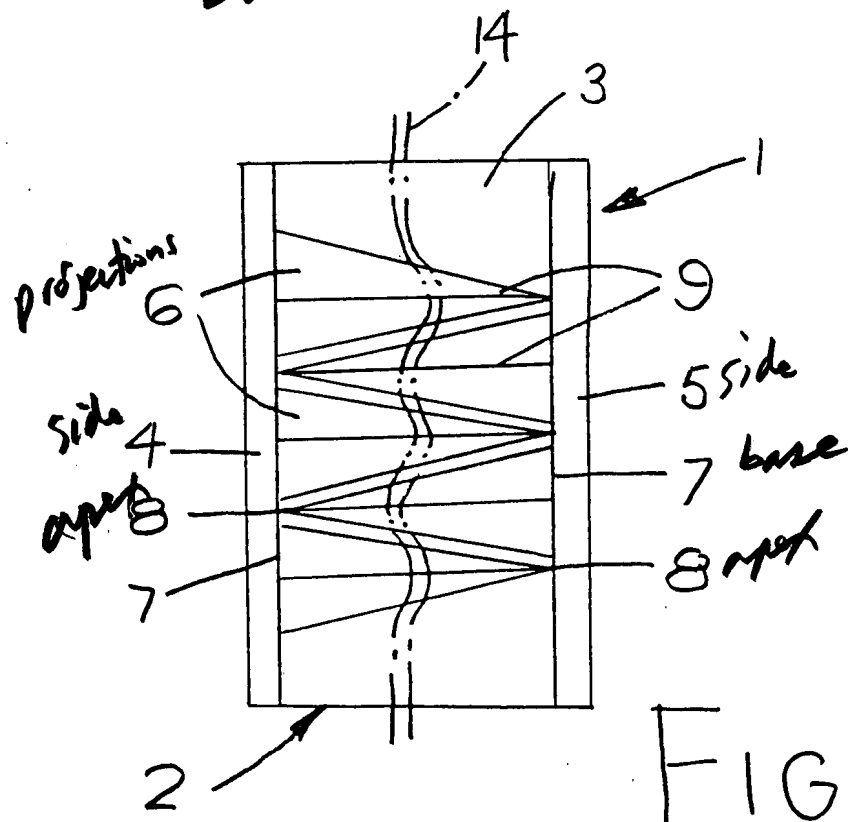
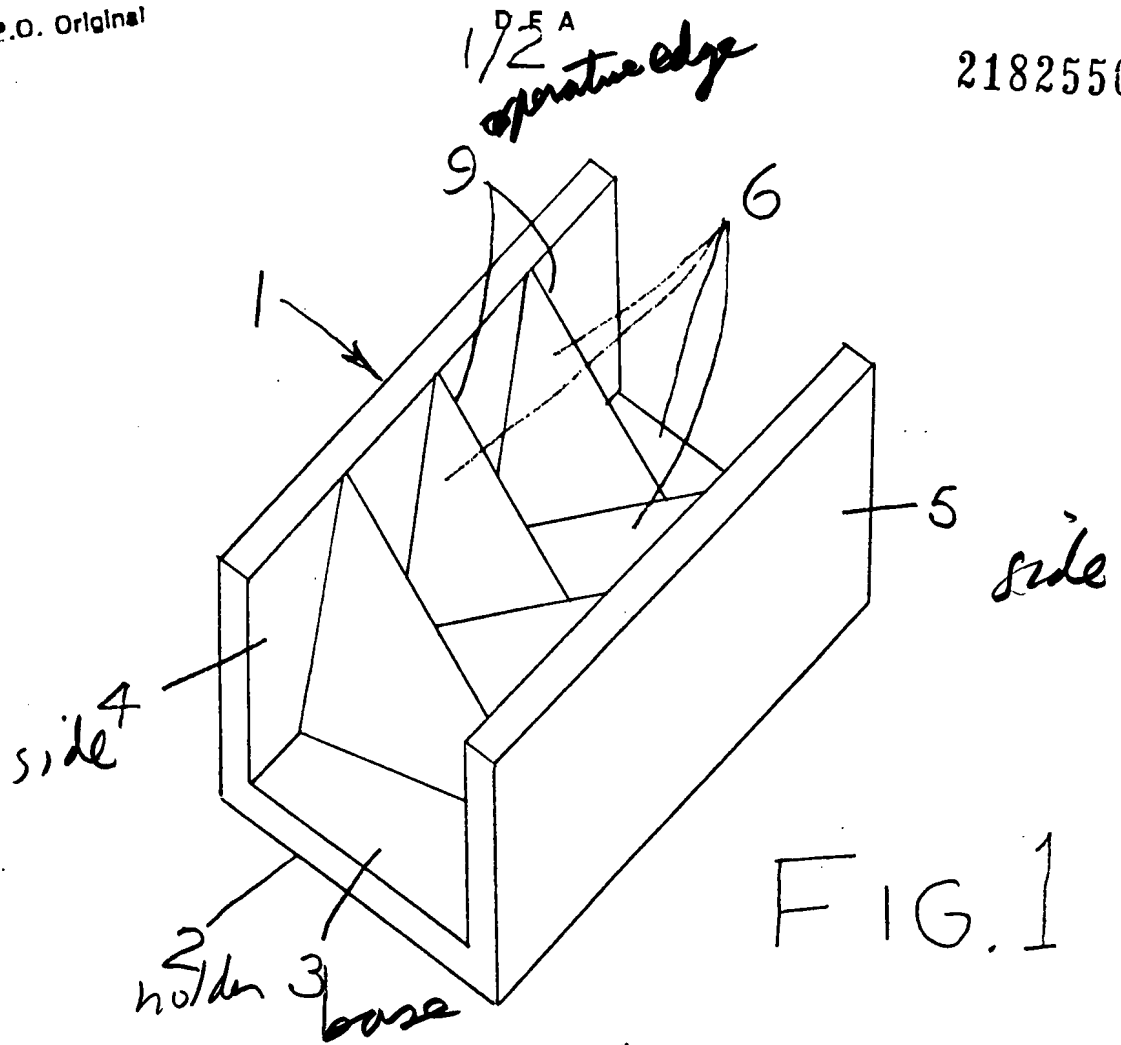


FIG. 1.

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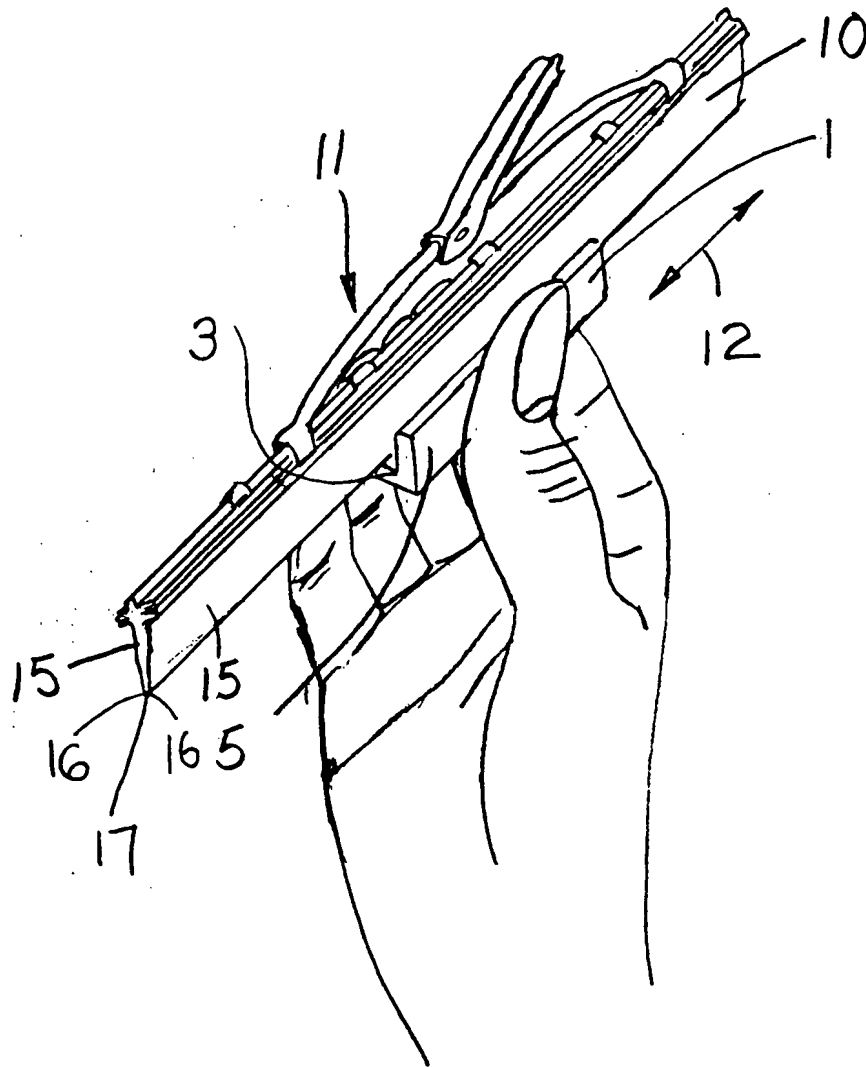


FIG. 3

## SPECIFICATION

### Cleaning device for windscreen wipers or the like

- 5 This invention relates to a cleaning device for wind-  
screen wipers or the like and more particularly to a  
cleaning device for cleaning the wiper rubbers  
thereof. It is to be understood that the term "wind-  
screen wipers or the like" is intended to include not  
10 only windscreen wipers themselves but also other  
articles having a thin strip which it is desirable to  
clean. Such articles include squeegees and sealing  
strips.
- Windscreen wipers are subject, after a number of  
15 wiping operations, to build up of dirt on the rubber  
blade and this build up, after a time, causes deterior-  
ation of the effectiveness of the wipe and in severe  
cases, causes scratching of the windscreen itself.
- No real provision has been made for the cleaning  
20 of blade rubbers, it being entirely left to the owner to  
find some means of overcoming this problem.  
Methods which have been proposed include the use  
of solvents to remove the dirt or the scraping of the  
rubber with a finger nail. Neither of these methods  
25 has proved altogether satisfactory.
- The present invention seeks to provide a cleaning  
device for windscreen wipers or the like in which the  
above mentioned problems are reduced or substan-  
tially obviated.
- 30 According to the invention, there is provided a  
cleaning device for windscreen wipers or the like  
comprising holding means carrying a plurality of op-  
positely directed projections engageable with op-  
posite faces of a lip on the article to be cleaned,  
35 whereby, when the device is drawn longitudinally  
along the lip, the projections have a scraping action  
on the surfaces of the lip.
- Further according to the invention, a cleaning de-  
vice for windscreen wipers or the like comprises a  
40 channel shaped holder having a plurality of op-  
positely directed projections projecting inwardly  
from the sides of the holder for engagement with op-  
posite surfaces of a lip on the article to be cleaned,  
whereby, when the device is drawn longitudinally  
45 along the lip, the projections have a scraping action  
on the surfaces of the lip.
- Preferably, the projections are such that cleaning  
is provided of the edges of the tip of the lip as well as  
of its side surfaces.
- 50 The projections may be interdigitated, at least at  
their outer ends. The projections may be triangular  
in plan and extend from the upper edge of one side of  
the channel to the lower edge of the other side of the  
channel.
- 55 The invention will now be described in greater de-  
tail, by way of example, with reference to the  
drawings, in which:-
- Figure 1* is a perspective view of one form of clean-  
ing device in accordance with the invention for clean-  
60 ing the wiping lip of the blade rubber of a windscreen  
wiper;
- Figure 2* is a plan view of the device shown in  
*Figure 1*, and
- Figure 3* is a perspective view of the device in use.
- 65 Referring to the drawings, there is shown a clean-

ing device 1 comprising a channel shaped holder 2  
including a base part 3 and two sides 4 and 5. Five  
projections 6 extend across the channel, two pro-  
jections from the side 5 and three from the side 4.

- 70 As can be seen, particularly from *Figure 2*, the pro-  
jections 6 are triangular in plan and extend from a  
base 7 on one side of the channel to an apex 8 on the  
other side of the channel. In elevation, the pro-  
jections 6 are in the form of right angle triangles with  
75 the adjacent sides in contact with the base 3 of the  
channel and one or other of the sides 4 and 5.

It will thus be seen that the projections 6 are inter-  
digitated and have an operative edge 9 which ex-  
tends from the top of a channel side at one side to the  
80 bottom of the channel side on the opposite side.

- In use, the wiper rubber 10 of a wiper blade 11 (see  
*Figure 3*) is inserted into the channel of the cleaning  
device 1 and the device is drawn along the rubber 10  
in the directions of the double headed arrow 12. The  
85 rubber, being flexible, will follow a meandering path  
around the projections 6 as indicated by the chain  
lines 14 in *Figure 2*. During the course of this, the  
edges 9 of the projections 6 will have a scraping ac-  
tion on the wiper rubber 10 to remove built up dirt.
- 90 Not only will the sides 15 of the wiper rubber be  
scraped but also the edges 16 of the tip 17 will be  
engaged by the edges 9 of the projections 6 and  
cleaned.

- It will be appreciated that various modifications  
95 may be made to the above described embodiment  
without departing from the scope of the invention.  
For example, the number of projections provided  
may be varied from a minimum of two upwards. The  
projections may be fully interdigitated as shown or  
100 alternatively only partial interdigitation may be used.

If desired, the projections could be spring urged  
towards each other either by making the individual  
projections resilient or providing for the sides 4 and 5  
of the channel shaped holder to be resilient. With re-  
105 siliant sides, a variable pressure could be exerted by  
the user's hand so as to achieve optimum cleaning.

The shapes of the projections could be varied. For  
instance, the slant edge 9 of the projections could be  
at a much steeper angle than shown. It could even be  
110 vertical where pressure is brought to bear on the pro-  
jections either by the resilience of the holder or by  
manual pressure.

It is not essential to have a channel shaped holder.  
For example, the holder could consist of two side  
members carrying the projections and a resilient  
bridge element connecting the two side members  
together so that the device operates like a pair of  
tongs. Alternatively, the sides of the channel shaped  
holder could be hinged together.

- 120 Where pressure is applied between the pro-  
jections, the projections could be directly opposed  
instead of being staggered or interdigitated.

Although the device is intended particularly as a  
device in its own right, it will be understood that it  
125 could form part of another device, e.g. be provided  
or formed in the handle of a squeegee.

While the invention has been described for clean-  
ing the rubbers of windscreen wiper blades, the de-  
vice could equally well be used for cleaning other  
130 appliances such as the squeegees used by domestic